Creation Matters

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Don DeYoung: A Scientists' Shepherd for over 21 Years

by Gary Locklair, Ph.D.

"The wise of heart is called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness."

Proverbs 16:21

"OK, folks, let's get back to the topic at hand." With those words, President Don DeYoung gathered the Creation Research Society (CRS) board of directors back together and re-focused their attention, which had to be done fairly often during annual board meetings.

A wise leader needs discernment. Just as God granted Solomon a wise and discerning mind (1 Kings 3:12), so too He gave Don wisdom and patience to govern the CRS as president for 22 years. As president, Don gave board members enough freedom to roam during board discussions but also knew when to pull them back on task to keep moving forward on CRS business.

Dr. DeYoung served as the eighth president of the Society from 1999-2021. The previous seven presidents of the CRS had each served an average of five years. Don's leadership skills were evident as the board continued to elect him president for more than two decades. Only retirement could keep him from being re-elected!

Don DeYoung speaking at a CRS conference.

His Background

Don earned an MS in physics from Michigan Technological University and a PhD in physics from Iowa State University. In addition to his scientific training, Don earned a Master of Divinity degree from Grace Seminary. In college, he heard Dr. John Whitcomb challenge people to consider a recent, supernatural creation. Although a believer, he had not previously considered how God's role as Creator connected to scientific inquiry. This was the impetus for him to explore creation.

After college, Don began a teaching career at Grace College in 1972. Although formally retired with the position of Professor Emeritus, Don continues to teach part-time at Grace. Just as good teachers had influenced him to become a scientist and educator, so Don influenced a new generation of creation scientists and researchers.

Don joined the CRS board in 1986 and will retire in 2022 after 36 years of service. Dr. DeYoung was recommended for the CRS board by Dr. David Boylan, Dean of Engineering at Iowa State and a personal friend during his graduate studies in Ames, IA.

His Perspective

Dr. DeYoung believes that the details of

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Math Matters

Higher Dimensions

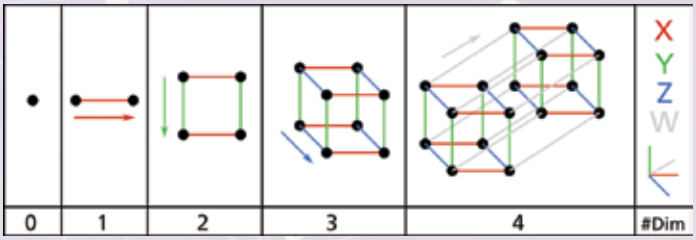
by Don DeYoung, PhD

In 1884, English schoolmaster Edwin Abbott wrote an unusual novel titled *Flatland*. Abbott describes a whimsical two dimensional world where the flatlanders have geometric shapes. They move about horizontally but with no vertical existence, similar to ants traveling on a flat surface.

In contrast, our world has the three familiar space dimensions of length, width and height. Time is also a dimension, often combined with light speed, ct, to give the unit of length. Although one can move forward or backward in space, time is limited to the ongoing, forward direction, called the arrow of time.

There is speculation of higher dimensions beyond the 3-4 familiar to us. Extra space dimensions were proposed by physicists Theodor Kaluza (1885-1954) and Oskar Klein (1894-1977) a century ago. More recently, string theory predicts 10-11 physical dimensions, yet unproven. If real, they remain undetected and may be tightly curled up or folded in on themselves with a size smaller than an atom, curved space in the extreme. Some have speculated that these entities might collapse into black holes and consume the universe. However, it has been mentioned that "We haven't been zapped out of existence yet so other dimensions are probably super tiny".[1] The Biblical creation worldview allows for possible higher dimensions; however, there is no such fear of a spontaneous disintegration of the universe to nothingness.

We cannot easily envision physical higher dimensions. After



A drawing depicting different dimensions. A point has zero dimension, a line has one. Also shown are a square, cube, and tesseract from: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dimension_levels.svg#/media/File:Dimension_levels.svg by NerdBoy1392.

all, what additional perpendicular direction lies beyond length, width and depth? Mathematics, in contrast, faces no such limitation. For example, since the volume of a 3-d cube with side x is x^3, 4-d and 5-d cubes would have volumes of x^4 and x^5. This pattern ignores any space curvature, and such higher dimension results might better be called *measures* instead of volume.

One ongoing effort to detect higher dimensions concerns energy. High precision experiments look for a slight loss in energy, as if some energy might "leak" into other dimensions. Thus far, energy appears to be precisely conserved or constant in every physical process.

Unseen higher dimensions may remind us of the spirit world including angels, heaven, prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit. This unseen realm is literal, real and near, yet it lies entirely outside the boundaries of physical space and time. Speculation on higher physical dimensions reminds us that creation is exceed-

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A Scientists' Shepherd

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nature are a powerful testimony to the Creator's care for mankind. He is personally interested in God's design in nature, particularly the field of biomimicry, which he refers to as the "Discovery of Design." God placed design in nature for people to discover, and once discovered, people use these designs in products to help others.

As a scientist and educator, Don believes in the importance of taking difficult concepts and making them approachable for all. His contribution to the CRS Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth (RATE) research project is a good example. Don took the complexity of the results and created a popular level overview of the work in his book, *Thousands Not Billions*. Don despises when scientists hide behind big words and complicated topics just to impress others. I was with Don when someone was giving a complex and obscure explanation for an origin event. After listening for a while, Don turned to me and said, "Oh come on, God created it! It's a supernatural process beyond our understanding."

At the same time, there are a number of natural processes that require careful research to understand and view in the context of creation. Don's research interests are varied, ranging from tides in the Bay of Fundi to geology, and from the weather to the origin of the moon. During his tenure as president, the CRS launched several important research programs including iDino (investigating soft tissue in dinosaur bones) and eKinds (identifying the created kinds and mechanisms underlying diversity).

Dr. DeYoung's physics background helped convince him that creation is the true explanation for origins. Don noted that we can discover the laws of nature and can quantify them, but asks, "Where did the laws come from and why do they exist?" Don contends that God established natural laws for the operation of the universe and the benefit of life. Faith in Christ is paramount, and science is secondary; however, science helps to back up faith.

Don DeYoung with office staff at the new CRS headquarters

Don reflects the nature of the CRS in his quiet, "behind the scenes" approach. The CRS keeps a low profile and focuses on research, The CRS isn't a flashy organization, but the it does the heavy lifting in research that many others benefit from and use. In his tenure as president, the CRS has blossomed. The internet presence (website, CRSnet, Facebook, YouTube channel, etc.) has expanded greatly. The CRS Van Andel Creation Research Center has increased in scope and prominence, even moving to new facilities on the campus of Arizona Christian University recently.

In addition to president, Don served as *Creation Research Society Quarterly* editor for 4 years and as vice president prior to his election as president in 1999. Because of his contributions to the CRS and the cause of creation, Don was elected a Fellow of the CRS in 2000. Don notes that much of the current creation community has spun off from CRS or been influenced by the 58-year history of the CRS.

Don reflected on many fond memories on the CRS board of directors: Weekends 'camped out' on the floor of the lab in Chino Valley as that campus was developed (which turned out to be a good investment for the CRS). Working with some of the CRS pioneers: George Howe, Wilbert Rusch, Tom Barnes, Henry Morris, Paul Zimmerman, and John Klotz. Board field trips in Georgia with Emmett Williams, Montana with Mike Oard, Kansas with Glen Wolfrom, and Arizona with John Meyer. He also cited the Milwaukee fish fry as memorable. He will always remember board humor, whether wisecracks, pranks, or board members falling asleep.

As board member and president, several accomplishments stood out to Dr. DeYoung including: the office relocations from Ann Arbor to Chino to Glendale; 35 years of operating within the Society budget; dividing CRS business sessions between Thursdays and Saturdays; recognizing member service and thanking donors; and, starting *Creation Matters* with Glen Wolfrom's expertise.

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A Scientists' Shepherd

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Don says, "My life has been enriched by association with many CRS friends who display the 'gentleness and respect' of 1 Peter 3:15."

For this author, Don has been a great friend and mentor. Don, you have shaped the CRS in a profound and positive way, and I've been honored to be a small part of the CRS board serving with you.

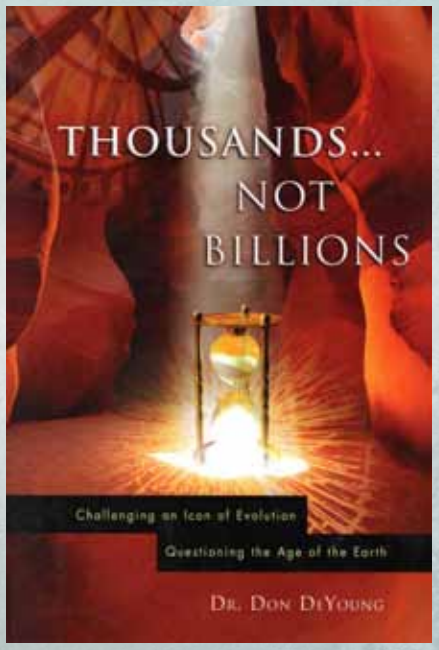
"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." **Romans 12:2**

Available in the CRS Bookstore

THOUSANDS - NOT BILLIONS

By Donald DeYoung

This non-technical book is the laymen's guide to the Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth (RATE) project. It has been written to equip the layperson to defend scientific six-day creation and refute modern dating techniques. 190 pages.



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ingly rich and complex.

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1. Daley, J. (2018, October 8). We Haven't Been Zapped Out Of Existence Yet, So Other Dimensions Are Probably Super Tiny: In theory, other dimensions aren't big enough to form black holes and consume our universe or it would have happened already. *Smithsonian magazine*. Retrieved November 17, 2021 from https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/our-continued-existence-means-other-dimensions-are-probably-super-tiny-180970487/

The 2022 Creation Research Society (CRS) Board of Directors election will be held beginning 15 February 2022 and ballots must be returned by 15 March. Voting members will receive candidate biographies and a ballot via postal mail.

Nominees:

Ron Samec

Andrew Repp

Research Grants

The Creation Research Society has been a leader in conducting and sponsoring creation research for more than 50 years. Not only do we have our own research projects (iDino and eKINDS) and facilities, but CRS members can apply for research grants for conducting research on topics relevant to origins issues. For more information on applying for grants or helping to fund creationary research, please contact us at vacrc@creationresearch.org, by phone at 928-636-1153, or by mail at:

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Creation Research Society
Research is our middle name

Critical Thinking in Creation Geology

by Michael J. Oard, MS and John K. Reed, PhD

Skepticism as an "ism" is unhealthy because perpetual questioning precludes acting on truth. Being skeptical, however, is simply recognizing that this world's brokenness extends to our intellect. We see the balance in 1 Thessalonians 5:21: "But examine everything carefully: hold fast to that which is good" (NASB), as the Bereans did with Paul's preaching of Jesus and the Resurrection (Acts 17:10–13). The Bereans relied on Scripture, as their worldview foundation, to drive critical thinking.

The Bible Can Be Critically Examined

This raises the question: can the Bible itself survive critical questioning? As long as truth is the goal, the answer is "yes." If criticism per se is the goal, truth will not be found. Atheists and agnostics often claim to want truth but end up doing unending sniping. "Objectivity for thee, but not for me" is simply another dishonest face of evil.

The question has a practical answer. The Bible has survived centuries of critical assaults. Individual Christians may exercise blind faith, but Christianity is well founded. There is a multitude of evidence for Scripture's truth. Texts from the Bible are found on thousands of ancient manuscripts; no other ancient book comes close. The text of Isaiah in the Dead Sea Scrolls is almost exactly that found in our Bible. Differences are minor, and do not significantly alter the meaning of the text. Many Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in history. Archeology has verified major accounts and minor details. It is archeological skepticism that has not stood the test of time: how many readers remember when the Bible was "proven wrong" because there was never a people group called the "Hittites"?

Scientific skepticism has likewise proven unreliable. Romans 1:20 states: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse" (NASB). Modern science has confirmed that the universe and life are too complex to happen by time, chance, mutations, and/or natural selection. The well-known atheist, Anthony Flew (2007), admitted late in life that there had to be a Creator. Perpetual skepticism traps many in Flew's early position all their lives; but once a Creator is acknowledged, biblical revelation is the only path forward.

Examining Geology Carefully

We need to cling tightly to God's word, especially Genesis—modern skepticism's favorite target. When we examine science critically, claims that the Bible is false, the Flood never happened, and the earth is billions of years old, melt away.

Geology purposefully conflates observational science with narrative fads based loosely on known facts. Many geologists are sincere and persuasive. Many have taken their lies at face value and lost faith in God's truth, severely damaging the Church.

But a critical examination of geology uncovers unproved assumptions, biases, and unfounded conclusions. One way this is evident is in vague, equivocal meanings of crucial terms like "evolution" and "uniformitarianism." Critics of Christianity are adroit in selecting the definition needed at the moment, counting on the public to draw the desired conclusion. Without checking the definitions of words, presuppositions, and logic, we can be blindsided by seemingly persuasive arguments.

Worse, new lies cover old ones. New terms have been invented, such as "historical science," to mask the difference between empirical observation and narrative (storytelling). Unfortunately, Christians can be drawn into these semantic games and sacrifice their strong biblical position for a popular trend (Reed and Klevberg, 2014a, b).

Critical examination shows us that "science" can be divided up into observations and interpretation. Variety within animals and plants is observed; speculation about their de novo evolution is an interpretation. Since observations and repeatability are the essence of science, interpretations of the past extend beyond science. One quickly discovers that interpretations are driven by worldviews and assumptions. Secular assumptions rest on the worldview of naturalism, which includes deep time (Oard, 2019), uniformitarianism, and evolution from a universal common ancestor. These axioms of geology were developed in the late 1700s and early 1800s when relatively little was known about science. Despite many observational surprises, these antiquated principles remain vastly influential.

Assumptions of uniformitarianism and deep time have driven modern geology. This is especially evident in paleoenvironmental interpretations. Because geologists claim that a formation was deposited in a lake or river, the Flood is eliminated a priori as a possibility. Critical evaluation of such interpretations quickly shows many problems (Oard,

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1999). Some Christians have been led astray by believing such interpretations, which are nothing more than conclusions based on the assumption that the Bible is not true!

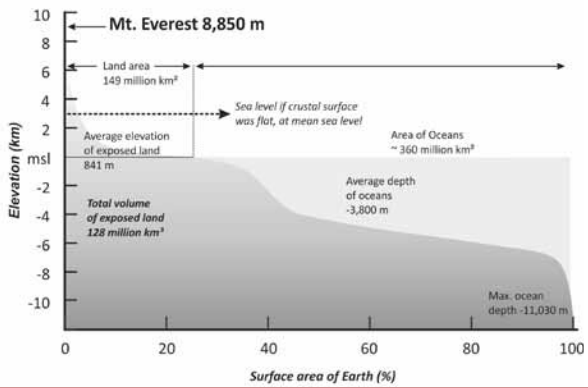
The "Challenge" of How Noah's Flood Could Cover Mount Everest

An example of balancing critical thinking and biblical fidelity is revealed by the common challenge that the Flood could not have occurred because it could not have covered Mount Everest, despite Genesis 7's clear teaching that all the mountains were covered. John Walton (2001, p. 322), Old Testament scholar at Wheaton College and author of the NIV Applications Commentary: Genesis, was fooled by this objection:

"According to the conventional interpretation of the Genesis version of Noah's story, the sea level rose for 150 days until it covered the tops of the mountains and then subsided for another 150 days. It is easy to prove that this is physically impossible."

Based on current land vs. sea volume, if Earth's surface were perfectly level, there would only be enough water to cover it to a depth of 2.7 km, not enough to cover the highest mountains (Figure 1). However, critical examination of the argument shows that this objection is due to a prior assumption the Bible is not true and a strict uniformitarianism. In falling for this secular canard, Walton misses the point of the Flood; the earth's face was destroyed (II Peter 3:6); what we see today is a new earth, not "uniform" over time.

The answer to Walton is simple (Oard, 2009)—Psalm 104:6–9. In speaking of the Flood, Barrick et al. (2020) point out



Hypsometric curve showing the average elevations of the Earth. If all the ocean water was lifted to sea level, the average depth would be only 2.7 km, not near enough water to cover the higher mountains, especially Mount Everest.

that verse 8 is properly translated: "The mountains rose; the valleys sank down to the place which you established for them" (NASB). In other words, Mt Everest is at its current elevation because it rose at the end of the Flood. That area of Asia was once much lower, below the Floodwaters. Likewise, the vast ocean depths were not always so deep, as shown by physical features such as guyots, flat-topped submarine mountains that were leveled near sea level but are an average of 1,500 m below sea level today (Oard, 2008, 2013).

Not all questions are so simply answered. Some have simple answers, some have complex answers, and some do not yet have answers. Creation science has answered many challenges (Oard and Reed, 2009), and this start encourages us to keep seeking more. At present, we must persevere with faith and patience, never tiring of truth and the careful, critical thinking it requires.

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Summaries of Cutting– Edge Research from the *Creation Research Society Quarterly*

Summaries compiled by Jean K. Lightner, DVM , MS

It is crucial for creation research to investigate the world around us while engaging the current scientific literature and Scripture as we build the creation model in various scientific fields. CRS exists to support and publish such research. Only through high quality research can we equip Christians with strong, sound apologetic arguments that demonstrate the robustness of the creation model in understanding the world around us.

Biblical Foundation for Understanding Our World

The Bible tells us the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge (Proverbs 1:7). Scripture itself provides important information about history and life, so it is always valuable to explore passages in depth. The Spring 2021 issue of the *Creation Research Society Quarterly* (*CRSQ*) features two articles focused on engaging passages of the Bible and exploring their application to relevant topics.

The first article (Johnson and Clarey, 2021) explores the details of Genesis 7, in which God tells Noah to board the Ark with his family and the animals, and then records the initial stages of the Flood. Numerous details of biological and geological significance are addressed in the verse-by-verse discussion. In particular, the article considers megasequences and addresses their probable origin during the progression of the Flood.

A second article (Johnson, 2021) focuses on Job 39, where God delivers a thought-provoking "nature sermon" to Job. Pairs of animals (lion and raven, mountain goat and deer, etc.) are discussed in sequence, including their needs and activities. God watches over them in their struggles (hunger, birthing process, etc.), even though Job is unaware of it happening. This delightful read expounds on details that encourage all of us to learn from the natural world that we can trust God's timing and providence.

The Spring 2021 issue of the *CRSQ* also includes a fascinating discussion of the origin of physical laws by Dr. Don DeYoung (2021). The regularity of physical laws is essential for the study of science, but how did they come to be? DeYoung explores six naturalistic approaches to answering this question, all of which are deficient. Truly, the regularity in physical laws proclaims the handiwork of the Creator (cf. Psalm 19:1).

DeYoung, D. 2021. Origin of the physical laws of nature. *CRSQ* 57:263-268.

Johnson, J.J.S. 2021. Doxological biodiversity in Job, chapter 39: God's wisdom and providence as the caring Creator, exhibited in the creation ecology of wildlife pairs. *CRSQ* 57:286-291.

Johnson, J.J.S. and T.L. Clarey. 2021. God floods Earth, yet preserves Ark-borne humans and animals: Exegetical and geological notes on Genesis chapter 7. *CRSQ* 57:248-262.

Pursuing a Solid Geologic Foundation

In addition to the history presented in the Bible, investigation of the world around us is key to developing robust theories within the creation model. The pages of the *Creation Research Society Quarterly* (*CRSQ*) have often been filled with field studies of various geologic formations and discussion of how they fit into a biblical model that recognizes the Creation and Flood as real events.

The Spring and Summer 2021 issues of the *CRSQ* are no different. They include the final two installments of Klevberg's flood geology papers (Klevberg 2021a, b), which discuss megafloods, the challenges of extrapolation, and a conclusion summarizing the evidence and highlighting important principles to guide geologic research.

Also in these issues is a discussion of Heart Mountain in Wyoming (Matthews 2021a, b). This formation is a challenge for secular scientists to explain, and this two-part series elicited some healthy dialog (Clarey, 2021). Further, Cayuse Basin in Montana was explored (Kevberg, 2021c) in an attempt to determine its origin. Could it have been from an impact crater? This fascinating article is a must read for those who wish to hone their skills by evaluating forensic hypotheses.

Clarey, T.L. 2021. Editorial: The Heart Mountain fault papers. *CRSQ* 58:4-7.

Klevberg, P. 2021a. A little flood geology, part IV: The nature of flood geology. *CRSQ* 57:276-285.

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Klevberg, P. 2021c. Cayuse Basin: A study in multiple working hypotheses. *CRSQ* 58:16-29.

Matthews, J. 2021a. The Heart Mountain conundrum, part 1: Models of low-friction sliding have major problems. *CRSQ* 57:269-275.

Matthews, J.D. 2021b. The Heart Mountain conundrum, part 2: A scientific critique of six unanswered uniformitarian questions. *CRSQ* 58:8-15.

Continued creation research is made possible by the generous gifts (time, money, and prayer) of our many supporters. Thanks to all who have contributed!

Creation Research Society
Research is our middle name

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Prayer Matters

Praise: We thank God for all your prayers and support!

Prayer: Please pray for those who volunteer their time as CRS board members. There is a lot of work to be done to maintain our organization and effectively conduct and support creation research. As some of the board members retire, there is a need to replace them which younger creation scientists willing to devote substantial time to keep the society moving forward.

Thanks Again!

The Creation Research Society (CRS)

For nearly 60 years, CRS has pursued and supported original research verifying the creation model of origins as a means to reveal the Creator. Research is our middle name!

- **CRS conducts research.**
- **CRS funds research.**
- **CRS holds a research conference where researchers can present research.**
- **CRS publishes research.**

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